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Agenda item 147

# Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

## Report of the Fifth Committee

*Rapporteur*: Mr. Patrick A. **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

## I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 51st and 55th meetings, on 3 and 25 June 2009. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.51 and 55).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/608);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/757);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/746/Add.15).

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## II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.63

4. At its 55th meeting, on 25 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" (A/C.5/63/L.63), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Mexico.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.63 without a vote (see para. 6).

# III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

## Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

*The General Assembly*,

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

*Recalling* Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1871 (2009) of 30 April 2009, by which the Security Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 April 2010,

*Recalling also* its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 62/268 of 20 June 2008,

*Reaffirming* the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

*Noting with appreciation* that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

*Mindful* of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006 and 61/276 of 29 June 2007, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 30 April 2009, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 46.1 million United States dollars, representing some 6 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only eighty-six Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

[1] A/63/608 and A/63/757.

[2] A/63/746/Add.15.

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of the facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

10. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

11. *Takes note* of paragraph 35 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266 and 61/276;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

**Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008**

15. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;[3]

[3] A/63/608.

**Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010**

16. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 55,877,200 dollars for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, inclusive of 53,527,600 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 1,955,400 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 394,200 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

**Financing of the appropriation for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010**

17. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 46,564,333 dollars for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 April 2010, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 61/243 of 22 December 2006, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2009, as set out in its resolution 61/237 of 22 December 2006, and for 2010;[4]

18. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 17 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,026,000 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,823,917 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 169,583 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 32,500 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

19. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 9,312,867 dollars for the period from 1 May to 30 June 2010, at a monthly rate of 4,656,433 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 61/243, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2010,[4] subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

20. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 19 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 405,200 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 364,783 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 33,917 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 6,500 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

21. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 17 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 1,723,400 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 61/243, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2008, as set out in its resolution 61/237;

22. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total

[4] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

amount of 1,723,400 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 21 above;

23. *Also decides* that the increase of 151,600 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008 shall be added to the credits from the amount of 1,723,400 dollars referred to in paragraphs 21 and 22 above;

24. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

25. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

26. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".